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2ND DISTRICT, NEVADA

HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND
RELATED AGENCIES
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January 19, 2018

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

I am writing to comment on Governor Sandoval's letter to you dated November 30, 2017 regarding the Notice of Intent to Amend Land Use Plans Regarding Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation (Notice) and to inquire about the process moving forward. I appreciate the Department's continued efforts to ensure that states have the opportunity to have a strong voice in the management of these birds.

As you are aware, Governor Sandoval's letter contains recommendations that were requested by the Notice. As one of the voices for Northern Nevada in Washington, I have worked closely with officials in Nevada so I can advocate effectively on their behalf. While the letter in its entirety is paramount, in my discussions with the State they have pinpointed certain issues laid out in the letter that I would like to specifically highlight for you.

In particular, I request that you pay special attention to the Conservation Credit System (CCS) and recommendations in relation to Sagebrush Focal Areas, fuels reduction, fire mitigation, mapping, and ground truthing. These were all elements included in the 2014 Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan and have been determined by the State to be extremely important in managing the bird.

Furthermore, as we move forward, I would like to inquire about the process. Do you have a set framework in which to implement the recommendations made by the State? Will you be sharing conclusions on the feedback sent from the State? In addition, what is the timeframe that you have in mind for implementation? It is my hope that this process moves quickly with action in 2018. Finally, do you have a process for more dynamic mapping as we move forward? I look forward to hearing your responses to these questions as we move forward in a transparent process.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you or your staff have any follow up questions, please contact Lauren Billman in my office at 202-225-6155 or Lauren.Billman@mail.house.gov. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Mark E. Amodei
Member of Congress

Cc: Director Tony Wasley, Nevada Department of Wildlife
Cc: Chairman J.J. Goicoechea, Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Council
Cc: Pam Robinson, Policy Director for Governor Brian Sandoval